

Music development plan summary: *Beckfoot Thornton*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Aimee Bulmer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Isabel Edgley
Name of local music hub	Bradford Music and Arts Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

The Music curriculum at Beckfoot Thornton is a hugely important provision where each topic and different experiences available to students, are linked to our 4 school ambitions for the students. Our intent for music is to ignite a creative spark in each child and to develop musicianship through performance, composition, listening and appraising. Our curriculum is diverse and inclusive and allows for all, irrespective of their prior attainment and any disability or SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) needs, to excel.

Confident Communicators; All of our students will have the confidence to perform in front of their peers by themselves or as part of an ensemble which they will do regularly in music lessons. Some of our pupils will perform on stage at school and events outside of school in front of a wider audience. Our pupils will self and peer assess verbally using musical language.

Knowledgeable and experiences learners; Our students will develop a knowledge and understanding of musical elements and notation which they will apply to composition and performance tasks. They will experience a range of musical genres from different cultures and time periods building listening skills. They will also develop practical skills on different instruments.

Committed Community Contributors; Our pupils will have the opportunity to perform in school productions as well as collaborative events with other Trust schools, as part of Bradford Music Service and at local events such as Thornton Gala. Pupils will regularly lead groups in performance lessons and after school rehearsals developing transferrable personal skills.

Future Ready Learners; Our students will apply the performance skills they learn in music and the confidence gained from this in different aspects of life and future work. They will learn perseverance and dedication from practising instruments at home as well as in school. They will challenge themselves to work under pressure and to deadlines when preparing for shows.

All students at Beckfoot Thornton study music for one hour each week at Key Stage 3. Lessons are based around a variety of engaging topics, always with making music at the core. Students access the practical elements mainly through the use of keyboards, meaning they are not constantly learning new instrumental technique, and can focus on developing their understanding and enjoyment of a wide range of musical styles and experiences, whilst also developing their performance skills, however some full class band topics do cover learning how to play guitar and ukulele which is then developed over the course of KS3.

In a typical scheme of learning students will appraise a range of pieces in the genre being studied. This will be done through mini whiteboard tasks during lessons, do now tasks, planned listening questions in booklets and all supported using topic specific knowledge organisers. Students will then learn iconic pieces through appraisal and performance of the piece.

At KS3 the following topics are covered through appraisal, analysis, performance (keyboard, vocal or own instruments) and composition:

Year 7

- Music Notation Theory and Composition
- Musical Elements and Ensemble Performance (Solo/Duets)
- Programme Music Composition
- Blues Music Performance (Solo/Duets)
- 90's Music Performance (Whole Class Ensemble)

Year 8

- Queen Performance (Solo/Duets)

- Superhero Theme Composition
- Reggae Music Performance (Whole Class Ensemble)
- Game Music Composition (PC Project)

Year 9

- The Beatles Listening and Performance (Whole Class Ensemble)
- Film Music Composition (PC Project)
- Pop Song Performance (Small Group Ensemble)

Students in all year groups are encouraged to enter instrumental and vocal exams, as their instrumental teacher recommends. Students enter exams for ABRSM, Trinity and Trinity Rock and Pop.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

One to one and small group lessons are taught by amazing peripatetic teachers during the school day. Students have the opportunity to learn how to play, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Bass Guitar and Drums. Lessons are £50 per term, £25 for pupil premium students.

Through support of the Music service, Pupil Premium students who are a part of the Progression Fund, are able to continue to have small group instrumental lessons on brass instruments. This is a continuation of lessons that were started in primary school through the Progression Fund Programme.

Including those with funded lessons, we have approximately 30 students accessing peripatetic lessons during school time, just under 50% of them being PP.

We offer an after-school band for students of all abilities and year groups to participate in, Beckfoot Thornton Band. Students learn to play different genres of music and are the house band to support at school shows. Lots of our students also start their own bands and groups which are encouraged and guided by the music department if needed. Students can book out any of our fully equipped rehearsal room to rehearse at Break or Lunch.

We employ our Music Peri staff through an external agency and not through the music educational hub. However, we do work closely with the Hub attending Secondary Music meetings and performing at their annual proms concert at St. George's Hall. Students are also encouraged to join outside of school groups and provision.

We have students that are involved in:

- Local theatre productions
- Local choirs
- Local Brass bands

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

We have a programme of concerts that are held throughout the year to showcase the amazing work that students have accomplished. Our concerts are held on an evening and parents, students and the wider local community are invited to attend.

The concerts in our programme include:

- Open evening performances
- School Musical- 2 nights
- Christmas Concert
- Trust Events
- St Georges Hall

Students perform at these events in our school ensembles as well as in smaller bands that they have formed independently. Performances also include several soloists on a variety of instruments. School concerts are charged at a minimal fee to ensure all parents and students can attend. Each year, we are invited take part in the Bradford Music Service Proms where we usually take the current band cohort. This differs each year as new students join the band.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

- Develop transition of year 6 to year 7. Further work with local primary feeder schools to help develop a bridging curriculum. Working closely with lead practitioners in each school to have regular meetings and offer staff CPD for non-specialists teaching music – this will be looked at in the academic year 2024/2025
- Performance opportunities with local primary schools to get more year 6/7 students excited about music at Beckfoot Thornton before they start
- Develop more in-school performance opportunities to allow students to see their peers performing and be inspired to get involved in extra-curricular music
- Further refinement of curriculum at KS3. Constantly updating, developing, and improving our curriculum. Making it engaging, inclusive and challenging for our students

- To continue working to build provision and uptake of instrumental lessons